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**Poughkeepsie faces "food insecurity," according to college brief**

POUGHKEEPSIE – The City of Poughkeepsie is facing "food insecurity," according to a discussion brief drafted by the Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach at SUNY New Paltz.

The study said the city needs more than so-called "emergency" charitable efforts.

Study co-author KT Tobin said they examined a number of issues related to availability of food.

"Some critical factors were transportation – the ability to get to supermarket," Tobin said. "Poughkeepsie is defined as a food desert so whether one has a car or not is a significant factor on whether or not someone is going to be hungry or not, so clearly things like income are related to food insecurity."

Among long-term remedies to the food insecurity, the study said, were lifting the four-bag limit set on city buses; creating a "Food Loop" bus route to take residents to and from food stores; and a system of incentives to encourage sale of healthy foods in existing small stores in the city.

Monday  
 March 3, 2014

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